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HELLO MIRROR MADRAS
RNI No.TNBIL/2021/81709
Daily Morning Newspaper
The Truth

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National Milk Day

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Milk at the Heart of India's Nutrition and Rural Economy

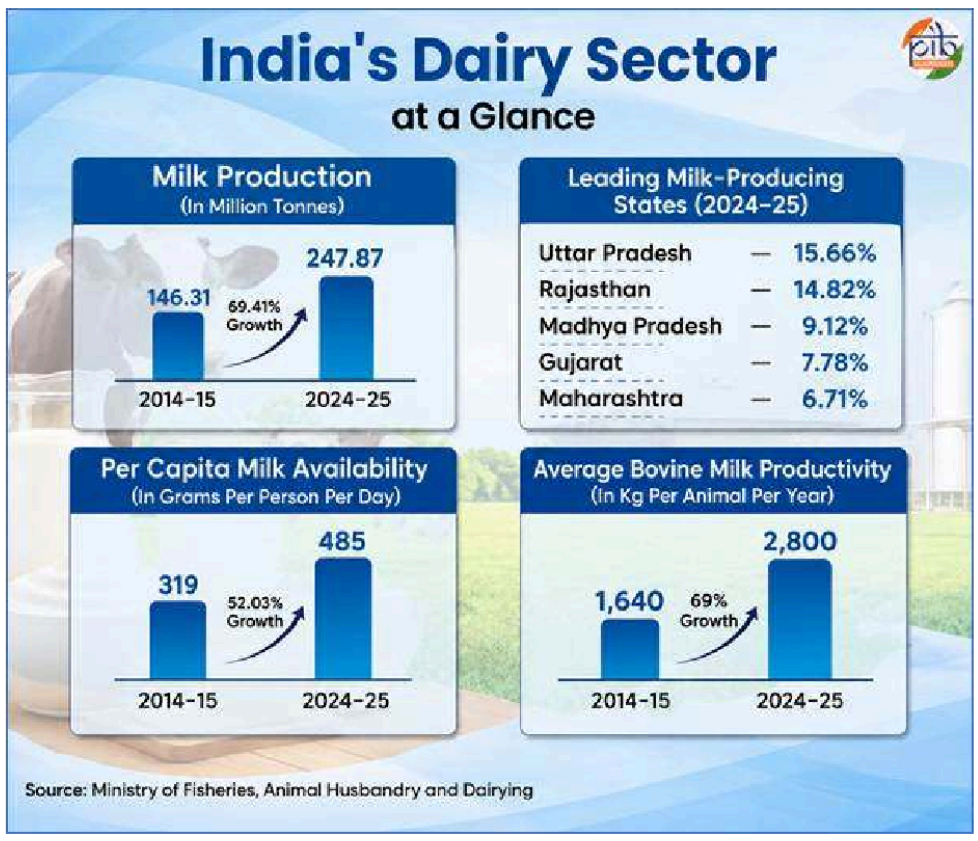
Milk occupies a vital place in India's nutritional landscape. It provides high-quality animal protein and essential nutrients, including calcium, magnesium and potassium, in easily absorbable forms. Often regarded as a near-complete food, milk supports growth, bone health and vitality across all age groups.

India has consistently remained the world's largest milk producer, contributing nearly one-fourth of global milk production. Between 2014-15 and 2024-25, production grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.41 percent, reaching 247.87 million tonnes. This growth also has a significant rural dimension. Dairying provides livelihoods to 8.5 crore rural households, with women playing a central role in milk production and collection. Nearly 70 percent of India's dairy farming workforce comprises women, highlighting their contribution to the sector's growth and its role in promoting inclusive rural development.

Observed every year on 26 November, National Milk Day commemorates the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the Father of India's White Revolution. The day recognises his transformative contribution to India's dairy cooperative movement. It honours the millions of dairy farmers whose efforts sustain the country's leadership in milk production.

India's Dairy Sector Records Strong Growth

India has maintained its position as the world's largest milk producer, supported



by sustained growth in production and productivity.

Milk production increased by 69.41 percent, rising from 146.31 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 247.87 million tonnes in 2024-25.

Leading milk-producing States were Uttar Pradesh (15.66 percent), Rajasthan (14.82 percent), Madhya Pradesh (9.12 percent), Gujarat (7.78 percent), and Maharashtra (6.71 percent). These five States accounted for 54.09 percent of total Milk production in the country.

Per capita milk availability rose by 52.03 percent, from 319 grams per person per day in 2014-15 to 485 grams in 2024-25.

Average bovine milk productivity increased from 1,640 kilograms per animal per year in 2014-15 to 2,800 kg per animal per year in 2024-25, registering growth of 69 percent.

The Cooperative Strength Behind India's Milk Economy

India's dairy cooperative movement provides an organised platform for milk producers. It connects village-level societies with district milk unions and State federations. These institutions support milk procurement, processing, marketing, and access to dairy services.